



Honorable Bob Franks  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C., 20515

Dear Congressman Franks:

This is in response to your letter of June 9, 1997 regarding the timetable for the preliminary assessment of the contamination recently found in sediment of Bound Brook in the vicinity of the Cornell-Dubilier Electronics Site (Site).

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined that an imminent and substantial health threat exists at the Cornell-Dubilier Electronics Site located in the Hamilton Industrial Park in South Plainfield, New Jersey. Investigations by EPA indicate that polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and heavy metals are present in soil, in buildings in the industrial park and in the Bound Brook adjacent to the Site. A Superfund removal action to stabilize the Site and mitigate immediate threats to on-site workers and area residents from contaminants found in surface soils is scheduled to start in July 1997. This removal action involves installing security fence around areas of known contamination, paving facility driveways and parking areas and implementing drainage controls to limit the migration of contaminants to the Bound Brook.

PCBs and other contaminants have been detected in the sediment and surface water of the Bound Brook adjacent to the Site. This is of particular concern because downstream water bodies are utilized as freshwater fisheries. A public health threat may exist if contaminants have migrated downstream to water bodies used as fisheries and have entered the food chain. Presently there is no data indicating that downstream fisheries are contaminated.

#### CONCURRENCES

Name: Cornell-Dubilier	Init: sb	Date: 06/25/97	Filename: Cong #0032					
Symbol	ERRD-RAB	ERRD-RAB	ERRD-RAB	ORC-NJSUP	ERRD-DD	ERRD-D	CD/CD	RA
Surname	Wilson	Rotola	Salpe	Karlen	McCabe	Caspe	Brandt/ Bellow	Fox
Date	6/25/97	6/25/97	6/25/97					

EPA has initiated a study to determine the impacts to human health and the environment from the release of contaminants from the Site to the Bound Brook. The goal of this study is to generate the data necessary to evaluate risks to the public health and the stream ecosystem from site contaminants. Sampling for this study was initiated on June 16, 1997. Samples of soil, surface water, sediment and fish were collected in the stream corridor between the Site and the dam at New Market Pond. Additional sediment and surface water samples were collected from the Bound Brook immediately downstream of the dam at New Market Pond. The samples collected will be analyzed for contaminants of concern including PCBs and heavy metals.

Evaluation of the health risk associated with consumption of game fish from water bodies downstream of the Site has been given the highest priority. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and the New Jersey Department of Health will be consulted to determine if the public should be advised against eating fish from waterways downstream of the Site. A preliminary health consultation concerning consumption of fish from waterways downstream of the Site is expected in August. A formal report documenting the results of this study is expected in October 1997.

Thank you for your interest in the Superfund removal action at the Cornell-Dubilier Electronics Site. Attached for your information is a fact sheet which describes in detail actions taken by EPA under the Superfund Removal Program.

If you have any further questions or need additional information, please let me know or have your staff contact Peter B. Brandt, Chief, Intergovernmental Affairs Branch at (212) 637-3657.

Sincerely,

Jeanne M. Fox  
Regional Administrator

Enclosure

cc: Robert C. Shinn, Jr., Commissioner  
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

bcc: Rosemary Carroll (1301)  
Executive and Congressional Communications